

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO AND DECISION OF CABINET ON 13 JANUARY 2020

**SUBJECT:** Littlehampton Public Realm Improvements: Phase 3 Beach Road/East Street

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Caroline Gosford/Denise Vine  
**DATE:** 20 December 2019  
**EXTN:** 37846  
**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Economy Group

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to update Members on the progress of the next phase of public realm works in Littlehampton and the successful grant applications for the phases of the scheme.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet notes the report contents.

### 1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. The existing Town Centre public realm is showing signs of age and its layout does not allow best use of the space for events. Pedestrian routes from the station towards the town centre are not obvious and some road crossings are difficult. The recent improvements to the riverside public realm demonstrate the transformational impact of new and contemporary public realm design. Littlehampton benefits from several iconic and high-quality buildings and structures such as the East Beach Café, Long Bench and Stage by the Sea and this design excellence should be replicated in the town centre public realm to help create a cohesive ambiance and connectivity between the seafront, riverside and town centre.
- 1.2. In 2016, and after extensive public consultation, designs were drawn up and approved by the Council for a five-phase town centre-wide public realm improvement scheme including new paving, lighting, planting and public art. The landscape designer was LDA Design who also designed the award-winning riverside walkway. See Appendix A: Street Plan.

- 1.3. Town Centres across the country are struggling and Littlehampton has not been immune to this, especially since the departure of Waitrose from the town centre to nearby Rustington. Vacancy rates are rising, and national retail trading conditions are the harshest in living memory. National policy states that town centres need to adapt to becoming less about retail and more service-orientated to maintain footfall and spend, and to offer a better visitor experience to compete in the new online world. While small scale interventions are tackling these issues such as shop front grants and retail training, this transformational project requires large scale investment.
- 1.4. The main objectives of the public realm scheme are to improve connectivity between town, riverside and seafront, create safer and more intuitive pedestrian routes around the town and attract more, and higher-spending visitors to the town to stay longer and spend more to sustain and grow the town's businesses.
- 1.5. In April 2019, the Council was awarded a Coastal Communities Fund grant of £2,452,295 for public realm enhancements for the High Street precinct and pavements/junctions to the railway station where a new and attractive gateway to the town is planned. These are Phases 1 and 2 of the five phase overall public realm scheme, and the delivery runs from early 2020 until early 2021.
- 1.6. The Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Local Growth Fund grant window opened in June 2019 and an Expression of Interest was submitted 2nd July 2019 for Phase 3 - East Street through to High Street junction at the bottom of the precinct and Beach Road. The value of the grant requested was £1,376,280. Project delivery runs from early 2020 until end December 2020.
- 1.7. The Council was invited to submit a Full Business Case in August 2019 and to present the project to the LEP Investment Board in September 2019.
- 1.8. The LEP confirmed in October 2019 that funding of 41% of this total (£564,274.80) was available for the project. This funding has been accepted. Legal colleagues will review the formal funding agreement before it is completed and returned.
- 1.9. It was agreed in principal that Arun District Council will contribute £200,000 from 2020-2021 Capital Budget towards the delivery of this phase of the scheme. This formal decision is planned for Cabinet in February 2020: Budget Monitoring Report.
- 1.10. Littlehampton Town Council has also agreed in principal to contribute £200,000 to the delivery of this phase of the scheme. This was formally agreed at a meeting of their Full Council on 21 November 2019 and is subject to members having the opportunity to discuss the detail of the scheme.
- 1.11. The costs of Phase 3 have been reprofiled to bring it within the budget available of £964,274.80.
- 1.12. A total of £3,416,569.8 has been allocated for the delivery of Phases 1,2 & 3 of the Littlehampton Town Centre public realm improvements.

| <p>1.13. The one-off fee charged by the LEP for legal agreements and monitoring, totalling £21,500, will be drawn from corporate underspend and authorised by Chief Financial Officer/ Section 151 Officer under delegated powers.</p> <p>1.14. The three phases will all be delivered by the same professional team with the same timescales.</p> <p>1.15. Funding sources for the remaining Phases 4 (Surrey Street towards Look and Sea Centre and riverside) and Phase 5 (War Memorial roundabout) will be pursued and bids written to complete the overall town centre scheme.</p>   |     |    |  |     |    |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
|---|-----|----|--|-----|----|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>2. PROPOSAL(S):</b></p> <p>2.1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the next phase of public realm works in Littlehampton and the successful grant applications for the phases of the scheme.</p> <p>2.2. A total of £3,416,569.80 has been allocated for the delivery of Phases 1,2 &amp; 3 of the Littlehampton town centre public realm improvements.</p> <p>2.3. This has been achieved by a grant of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2,452,295 from Coastal Communities Fund</li> <li>• £564,274.80 from Coast to Capital LEP Local Growth Fund</li> <li>• £200,000 from Arun District Council</li> <li>• £200,000 from Littlehampton Town Council</li> </ul> <p>2.4. It is proposed that Cabinet notes the contents of this report.</p> |     |    |  |     |    |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| <p><b>3. OPTIONS:</b></p> <p>Not applicable</p>   |     |    |  |     |    |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| <p><b>4. CONSULTATION:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Has consultation been undertaken with:</th> <th>YES</th> <th>NO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Relevant Town/Parish Council re: designs and objectives</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relevant District Ward Cllrs re: designs and objectives</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other groups/persons (please specify) Members all 3 tiers, Traders, public.<br/><br/>Littlehampton Regeneration Sub Committee are aware<br/>JEAAC as the responsible Highways body for such works has approved the designs</td> <td>x</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>  |     |    | Has consultation been undertaken with: | YES | NO | Relevant Town/Parish Council re: designs and objectives | x |  | Relevant District Ward Cllrs re: designs and objectives | x |  | Other groups/persons (please specify) Members all 3 tiers, Traders, public.<br><br>Littlehampton Regeneration Sub Committee are aware<br>JEAAC as the responsible Highways body for such works has approved the designs | x |  |
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| <p><b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES:<br/>(Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>YES</th> <th>NO</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>   |     |    |  | YES | NO |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
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|   |     |    |  |     |    |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Financial   | x |  |
| Legal   | x |  |
| Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment                       |   |  |
| Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act |   |  |
| Sustainability  |   |  |
| Asset Management/Property/Land                                |   |  |
| Technology  |   |  |
| Other (please explain)  |   |  |

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial: The Council is the Accountable Body for the grant funding. Accounts will assist with cost and budget management

Legal: A formal funding agreement is required by the LEP

A formal construction contract will be required to cover the public realm works

A formal Section 278 agreement will be required with West Sussex County Council to enable work on their highways land, plus construction contract support

#### **7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

To increase economic growth in Littlehampton via new business turnover, jobs and businesses.

#### **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Cabinet 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019: Phase 3 bid submission and delivery if successful

Cabinet 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019: Phase 1 & 2 bid submission and delivery if successful

Appendix A: Street Plan of all phases